

PETROCKSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on
Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 7.30pm.

Cllrs present: I Fisher (Chair), M Busby (Vice), A Hunkin, J Jeffs,
J Richards, J Harris, Cllr A Saywell (left early), DCllrs Hurley,
F Lowe (Clerk), Jane Brasier and Mike Thompson

89. **Apologies of Absence.** DCllr Wiseman and PCSO Baker.
90. **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.
91. **Public Session.** None
92. **Councillor Vacancy.** Cllr Jeffs has offered her resignation, and it is with regret that it has been accepted. Jane Brasier and Mike Thompson have applied for the 2 vacancies on the Council. They were co-opted unanimously onto the Council.
Clerk to advise TDC.
93. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting 21st July 2020, having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record. To be signed at a later date.
94. **Cllr Saywell report.** With the Chair's permission, Cllr Saywell gave his report early to attend another meeting. He thanked Josie for her time on the PC and welcomed Cllrs Brasier and Thompson. DCC reported new Covid cases dropping to 20/25 per week. While positive cases are down, testing is up and while the pattern of infection has changed it is still important to keep washing hands, wearing masks and keeping distanced as this will keep numbers low. TDC has had 65 cases in total with none currently. No new cases reported despite receiving many tourists/visitors; most cases were returning locals. Drains on Aish Hill have been cleared but there is concern that 2 near the Parish boundary have been missed off the map. Cllr Richards to liaise with DCllr Saywell. Cllr Saywell left the meeting.
95. **Planning (all for info only)**
- a) **Decision:** Ref: 1/0161/2020/FUL dated 5th August 2020 for the proposal of Proposed general purpose agricultural building at Land At Patchill, Petrockstowe, Devon. **DECISION: GRANTED**
 - b) **Application:** Ref: 1/0699/2020/PIP dated 19th August 2020 for the proposal of Construction of a single dwelling and associated works at Land South Of 1 North Town, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. Comments already supplied: *The proposed dwelling is outside the building line with Northtown. Building works would cause quite a lot of disruption owing to its position right on the junction to the main access road to the village. The proposed access would be very close to the junction with the existing Devon bank limiting vision. We believe that this bank was rebuilt as a condition for the permission granted for the extension to 1a Northtown and as such should not be removed*

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to give sight line to the proposed access. As we have previously pointed out, unless it for a low cost house or agricultural it should not be permitted under the local plan. (2nd September deadline)

- c) **Application:** Ref: 1/0552/2020/FUL dated 20th August 2020 for the proposal of Retrospective application for a stable building at Land At Grid Reference 252853 109225, Petrockstowe, Devon. Comments already supplied: *Petrockstowe Parish Council object to this application. This building was constructed without permission and another building on site is not currently being used for the purposes described in its application (lambing).*
- d) **Decision:** Ref: 1/0343/2020/LBC dated 7th July 2020 for the proposal of replacement of existing cattle barn with new dwelling at Butstone Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**
- e) **Decision:** Ref: 1/0359/2020/FUL dated 11th September 2020 for the proposal of Erection of covered feed building with cubicles and straw bedding area at Hele Barton, Sheepwash, Okehampton, Devon. **GRANTED**

96. **Correspondence.** Cllrs agreed that they had received the correspondence as listed from 15th July to 9th September 2020 inclusive and had no comments.

97. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**

- a. **Plaque in Play Area/Bench and plaque in Churchyard.** All now installed. Slabs are to be put under the legs of the bench.
- b. **Bus Shelter Repairs.** Repairs will be carried out asap.
- c. **Drains on Aish Hill.** Covered under Cllr Saywell's report.
- d. **Telephone Box as a bug hotel.** As the weather deteriorates, Cllr Fisher will remove any damaged books. Review at next meeting.
- e. **Correspondent for North Devon Journal.** No volunteer has been found yet. Carried forward.
- f. **Replacement Clerk laptop.** Laptop now working well; situation to be monitored.
- g. **Internet Access at Baxter Hall.** Airband want to charge £49/month, after the end of year. BH Committee unhappy to pay this amount and 12 months' notice is required to any changes. The internet is being used by Art Group and for music.

98. **Current Business.**

- a. **Play Park vacancy.** Josie Jeffs will ask the parishioner who lives by the Play Park if he is happy to take over the responsibility as a volunteer. Cllr Harris agreed to take on the responsibility of monthly checks and reporting to the PC. Josie Jeffs and Cllr Fisher will continue as signatories.
- b. **Zoom meetings.** TDC are unwilling to reimburse the £14.39 per month for these. As it is unknown when physical meetings will resume, the **Clerk to seek a free alternative.**

99. **Councillors Reports.**

- a. **District Reports.** Cllr Hurley report attached to these minutes.
- b. **Baxter Hall.** Work is coming to an end and hall will be reopened soon.

Continuation of PCM minutes on 15th September 2020

- c. **Play Park.** All issues on ROSPA report now resolved, mural retouched and will have a protective coat applied.
- d. **Footpaths.** Patchill Path has now been cleared of blockage. There has been an offer to put in new gates if owners agree. Padlocked gates have been fitted to the bridge which links America Lane to the Tarka Trail.
- e. **Police Report.** Report provided – recorded crime in August – 1 violence without injury and 1 criminal damage; incidents in August – 1 anti-social behaviour and 1 transport.

100. **Financial Items**

- a. **Clerks Expenses** - £33.83 (including £28.78 Zoom July/August) approved. To be paid online.
- b. **ICO.** Direct Debit of £35 annual payment due.
- c. **Covid-19 allowance of £466.53 (unused).** This will be taken out of the Precept payment due in September.

The meeting went into Part 2 at 8.40pm for 15 minutes.

It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Cllr Fisher thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Chairman Date

DC Report Sept 2020 Petrockstowe

Torrige District Council are asking the public for their views on the Council's **STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023**. The Strategic Plan describes the priorities and direction of our district. It shapes what TDC do, what the Council will prioritise spending money on and how they will work together with their partners over the next 3 years to get the best for residents.

The strategic themes are:

Local Economy, Communities, Health & Housing, Our Environment our Future and Our Council

Details can be found on the website: <https://www.torrige.gov.uk/Consultations>

On the website page there is also an email address to feedback any comments on the plan. The consultation closes on 23rd September.

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Burton and Plough Funding

At last week's meeting of the Community and Resources Committee it was agreed that a new 5 year funding contract be awarded to the Burton Art Gallery in Bideford. This is a renewal, at reduced financial terms, of the contract that was agreed in 2015. This still has to be approved by Full Council and was subsequently called in to Internal O&S At the same meeting it was agreed to award the Plough £25,000 to help with the present financial difficulties that this organisation is facing.

Local Swimming Pools

A petition has been started with the aim of getting Torridge DC to reopen the local swimming pools. For information, Torridge didn't close the pools and these pools are managed by a Company called 1610, and it is they who are responsible for the delay in reopening. TDC are now working with 1610 to try and get the pools reopened.

Extraordinary Internal Scrutiny Meeting

A Notice of Motion was presented to Full Council proposing 1 or 2 hours free parking for a period of two months in Bideford, Torrington and Holsworthy to try and stimulate footfall and purchases in the local shops. Subsequently, because finances are involved, the NoM was debated and passed at the Community and Resources meeting held on 17th August. This decision was called in to the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion today (15th September). The reason given for this call in is that Councillors did not debate the full implications of free parking. The outcome of today's meeting was that it was decided to recommend a paid for 1st hour with a second hour free. It's now back to C&R.

TDC Financial Position

Councillors, and those members of the public who watched the C&R meeting last Monday live via YouTube, were informed that the financial position of Torridge District Council is not as precarious as was at one time it was feared that it would be. This is principally due to Central Gov't Funding and also fees and charges earned by Planning and building control when this sector held up well during the lockdown period. Car parking income, whilst down on the previous year, regained some ground due to the staycation that has taken place.

In relation to the above the planning and land charges teams have received an unprecedented demand for their services.

In terms of Land Charges, property sales and purchases have literally gone through the roof, with buyers from afar deciding that they will purchase properties without even viewing them. In addition, the stamp duty holiday has made a big impact. Planning has increased due to the governments drive to stimulate the economy. Both teams are flat out with staff working additional hours. Unfortunately, as they are both highly specialised areas staff can't be pulled in from other teams, as the training is significant. Customers are going to be asked to please be patient as Torridge are doing all they can to deal with all requests.

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